

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2099

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AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

UNCLAS CARACAS 2100

SAN JOSE FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

EO 11652 NA

TAGS: PFOR, VE BR OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A)

SUBJ: VENEZUELAN REACTION TO SECRETARY'S VISIT TO BRAZIL

1. ASKED BY REPORTERS FEB 22 ABOUT THE US-BRAZILIAN AGREEMENT
SIGNED BY THE SECRETARY, PRESIDENT PEREZ COMMENTED AS FOLLOWS:

" FOR ME THE IMPORTANT THING IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND
LATIN AMERICAN IS NOT THAT PRIVILEGES OR PRIVILEGED BILATERAL
RELATIONS CAN BE SET BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES BUT RATHER, ON THE
CONTRARY, WHAT IS EXPRESSED BY WAY OF CONSIDERATION AND RESPECT
ON THE PART OF THE GREAT US NATION TOWARDS THE LATIN AMERICAN
COMMUNITY; AND AT THE SAME TIME, THAT ALONGSIDE THE BILATERAL
RELATIONS WHICH SHOULD EXIST BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES, THERE SHOULD
BE RELATIONS WHICH SIGNIFY THE PRESENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL
POLICY OF LATIN AMERICA AS A COMMUNITY, WHICH MAKES US STRONG
AND WHICH GIVES US THE CAPACITY FOR DECISION IN THE CONCERT OF
GREAT NATIONS."

2. PRESIDENT PEREZ WENT ON TO SAY THAT " I HAVE NO UNFAVORABLE
OPINION OF THE VISIT WHICH THE SECRERARY OF STATE IS MAKING IN
LATIN AMERICA. I BELIEVE THAT ALL US LATIN AMERICANS SHOULD
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BEHAVE WITH DIGNITY AND WITH A SENSE OF THE SOLIDARITY OF OUR SUB-

CONTINENT. THE AGREEMENTS GIVE BRAZIL THE RIGHT OF CONSULTATION ON MULTILATERAL TOPICS AND HAVE BEEN RECEIVED BY INTERNATIONAL ANALYSTS WITH GREAT CAUTION."

3. WIRE SERVICE AND US MEDIA TREATMENT OF THE US-BRAZIL AGREEMENT HAVE PREDICTABLY ELICITED NEGATIVE COMMENT BY OTHER VENEZUELAN POLITICIANS. AD LEADER JOSE ANGEL CILIBERTO CRITICIZED THE SECRETARY FOR PURPORTEDLY GIVING PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT TO BRAZIL, WHILE COPEI'S VALMORE ACEVEDO ACCUSED THE US OF TRYING TO USE BRAZIL AS AN "INSTRUMENT OF ITS POLICY." URD'S ANGEL BRITO CALLED THE AGREEMENT A RETURN TO THE DAYS OF NIXON'S RECEPTION OF PRESIDENT MEDICI IN WASHINGTON. POMPEYO MARQUEZ OF MAS SAW THE AGREEMENT AS A MANEUVER TO BREACH LATIN AMERICAN SOLIDARITY. THE MEP'S SIUBERTO MARTINEZ CALLED IT "A STRATEGIC ERROR." A RIGHTIST SPOKESMAN, ALEJANDRO GOMEZ SILVA OF THE FUN, STATED THAT VENEZUELA NEEDS A BIGGER ARMY TO FACE THE "BRASILIA-WASHINGTON AXIS." EX-FOREIGN MINISTER MARCOS FALCON BRICENO, HOWEVER, SAID THAT THE US-BRAZILIAN AGREEMENT "ACCORDS WITH REALITY".
SHLAUDEMAM

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